



TRADE UNION STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA 30 JUNE 1985

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MAIN FEATURES

This issue contains trade union figures as at 30 June 1985 from the first mid-year collection, which replaces the previous end of year collection.

Total membership of reporting trade unions at 30 June 1985 was 3,154,200 compared with 3,028,500 at 31 December 1984. An estimated 57 per cent of total employees were trade union members at 30 June 1985 compared with 55 per cent at 31 December 1984. There were 323 reporting trade unions at 30 June 1985, a decrease from 329 at 31 December 1984.

Ten unions, with 80,000 or more members each, accounted for 36 per cent of total membership. The 107 unions with fewer than 500 members each, accounted for only 0.6 per cent of total membership.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The figures in this publication have been compiled from questionnaires completed by individual trade unions in respect of their membership and area of operation as at 30 June 1985 and as at 31 December in previous years. The collection has been changed to an end of June basis to correspond with other statistics which are on a financial year basis. The questionnaire has also been changed from previous collections to separate the number of financial and total members of trade unions.

Scope and coverage

2. Current lists of reporting trade unions are maintained by reference to lists used in previous years and to trade unions registered under the provisions of the various Federal and State industrial arbitration Acts, trade union Acts, etc.; from names of unions reported to be engaged in conciliation and arbitration proceedings, etc.; and from reports in trade journals, trade union and employer periodicals, newspapers and other publications. It should be noted that not all reporting trade unions are registered under the relevant Federal or State industrial arbitration legislation or State trade union Acts (see paragraph 11 below).

3. For trade unions that are branches of larger trade unions, only the larger organisation is counted to reduce the possibility of duplication in the figures of the number of unions and members. An interstate or federated trade union (i.e. a union with members in more than one State or Territory) is treated as a separate union in each State or Territory in which it has members, but is counted only

once in the Australian total (see Table 1). Unions with interstate associations which are not strictly branches of a common organisation are counted as separate unions in the totals for Australia.

4. The published number of reporting trade unions varies from year to year as a result of amalgamations of unions, unions ceasing to operate, new unions being formed, existing organisations changing their status such that it brings them within the scope of the definition of a trade union (see paragraph 5), and existing unions reporting for the first time. At 30 June 1985, there were 323 reporting trade unions compared with 329 at 31 December 1984. This decrease resulted from the inclusion of 4 unions (total membership of 2,072) reporting for the first time (all of which were in existence before 31 December 1984), the amalgamation of 2 unions with other existing unions and 8 unions ceasing to operate.

Definitions

5. For the purpose of these statistics a *trade union* is defined as an organisation, consisting predominantly of employees, the principal activities of which include the negotiation of rates of pay and conditions of employment for its members. Non-operating unions or branches, i.e. those with no members at the date of collection, are not included in the statistics.

6. *Membership of trade unions. Financial members* are dues paying members who are no more than 6 months in arrears in payment of dues. *The total number of members* includes all persons (financial, unfinancial, honorary, etc.) regarded as members by unions.

7. Persons who are members of more than one union cannot be separately identified and are therefore counted more than once in the totals. The extent of this duplication is not known. Members of unions who work overseas are excluded from the reported membership data. Membership figures may be affected by differences in the concept of membership adopted by different unions or by the same union at different times. (See paragraph 9 below.)

8. *Proportion of total employees.* The approximate percentages of wage and salary earners in employment (i.e. employees) who were members of trade unions are shown in Table 4. The proportions of total employees have been calculated from estimates of employees from the labour force survey published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). The percentages shown should be regarded as giving only a broad indication of the extent of union membership among employees, because they are

based on estimates of *employed* wage and salary earners and the degree of unemployment of reported union members will affect the percentages for a particular year and comparisons over time.

Comparability of series

9. Comparability of figures for different years may be affected by a number of factors. As stated in paragraph 7, there may be duplication in the count of members. This duplication may vary over time. Union rules on membership may follow different concepts and practices and this may be reflected in the level and fluctuations of the figures reported. As stated in paragraph 1, unions reported financial and total membership separately for the first time as at 30 June 1985. In previous years some unions confined their reported membership to 'financial' members whilst others included various other members. Individual unions may or may not include in their reported membership unemployed members, members who have retired from the labour force, disabled members, members with dues in arrears (who may be kept on union books for varying lengths of time), etc.

10. Membership of trade unions is shown separately for males and females for each State and Territory. The subdivision of total membership into males and females is not precise because some trade unions are unable to state the exact number of males and females among their members. The subdivision of total membership by States and Territories is also not precise because some unions in the Territories are affiliated with State organisations and their membership is reported under the heading of that State.

Organisations registered under industrial arbitration legislation

11. Details of employee organisations registered under the *Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904* as at 30 June 1985 (with comparable figures for 31 December 1984 shown in brackets) are: 149 (148) employee unions with membership of 2,581,800 (2,492,500) representing 82 (82) per cent of total membership of all reporting trade unions in Australia.

12. Industrial legislation in most States also provides for the registration of employee associations. Some employee associations are registered under more than one Act.

Related publications

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 incl. postage)

Trade Union Members, Australia, March to May 1982 (6325.0)

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

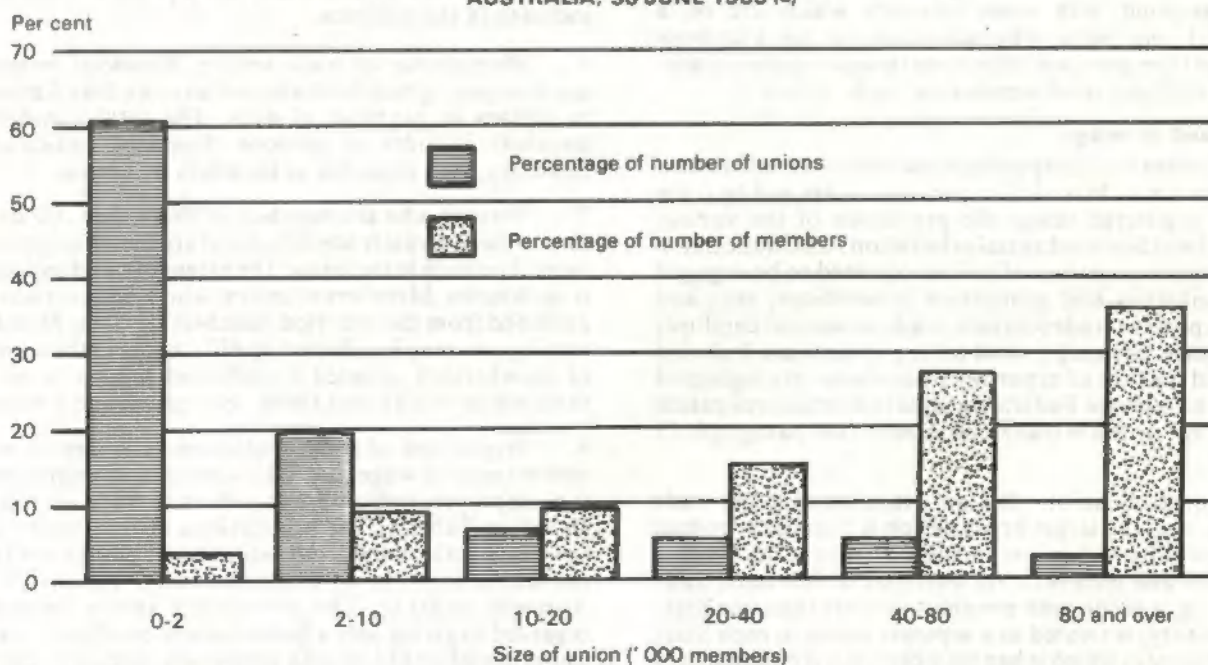
Symbols and other usages

- Break in continuity of series
- nil or rounded to zero
- r revised

14. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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**TRADE UNIONS : PERCENTAGE OF UNIONS AND MEMBERS ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP
AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1985 (a)**



(a) For details see tables 6 and 7, page 5.

TABLE 1. TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 31 DECEMBER 1980 TO 31 DECEMBER 1984 AND 30 JUNE 1985

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.(a)</i>
31 December									
1980	192	173	137	143	150	122	78	93	325
1981	191	173	138	141	149	123	75	91	324
1982	187	175	142	143	148	124	78	93	322
1983	186	174	138	141	146	123	75	92	319
1984	190	179	138	142	148	127	75	89	329
30 June									
1985	183	177	138	143	146	130	76	83	323

(a) Australian totals do not equal the sum of the States and Territories, see paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER OF MEMBERS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 31 DECEMBER 1980 TO 31 DECEMBER 1984 AND 30 JUNE 1985 ('000)

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
MALES									
31 December									
1980	751.3	523.6	276.0	186.3	158.8	62.3	14.5	36.7	2,009.5
1981	772.3	522.9	285.6	178.0	156.4	63.4	14.2	36.6	2,029.4
1982	745.7	533.4	296.0	176.0	161.2	61.4	13.7	36.9	2,024.4
1983	730.6	529.1	299.6	174.3	162.2	61.1	13.9	36.4	2,007.2
1984	741.4	545.5	300.9	171.5	166.2	62.2	13.6	40.0	2,041.2
30 June									
1985(a)	756.2	568.0	328.8	183.2	166.3	64.1	13.9	41.2	2,121.6
FEMALES									
31 December									
1980	357.4	246.6	132.1	85.3	75.9	26.1	5.8	17.3	946.3
1981	373.3	248.8	135.4	85.1	72.7	26.3	6.0	17.0	964.7
1982	381.9	256.7	142.7	82.7	73.3	26.7	6.5	17.5	988.0
1983	378.1	259.1	130.6	83.5	75.3	27.6	6.7	17.2	978.0
1984	373.1	260.5	133.9	87.0	78.0	29.1	6.8	18.9	987.3
30 June									
1985(a)	392.7	290.5	124.1	89.9	78.2	29.8	7.4	20.0	1,032.6
PERSONS									
31 December									
1980	1,108.7	770.1	408.1	271.6	234.7	88.4	20.3	53.9	2,955.9
1981	1,145.6	771.7	421.0	263.1	229.1	89.8	20.1	53.7	2,994.1
1982	1,127.5	790.1	438.8	258.7	234.5	88.1	20.2	54.4	3,012.4
1983	1,108.7	788.2	430.2	257.8	237.5	88.6	20.6	53.6	2,985.2
1984	1,114.5	806.0	434.8	258.4	244.2	91.3	20.3	58.9	3,028.5
30 June									
1985(a)	1,148.9	858.5	452.9	273.1	244.5	93.9	21.3	61.2	3,154.2

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the break in continuity of the series.

TABLE 3. TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1985 ('000)

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Males	660.0	488.3	283.3	161.0	148.9	57.5	11.1	37.2	1,847.4
Females	357.0	269.0	113.7	85.7	74.4	29.4	7.0	19.2	955.4
Persons	1,016.9	757.4	397.1	246.8	223.3	86.9	18.1	56.3	2,802.8

TABLE 4. TRADE UNION MEMBERS : PROPORTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYEES(a), AUSTRALIA, 31 DECEMBER 1980 TO 31 DECEMBER 1984 AND 30 JUNE 1985
(per cent)

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
MALES									
31 December									
1980	63	59	57	65	55	67	45	70	61
1981	64	58	57	62	54	67	43	67	60
1982	64	61	59	63	55	70	41	71	62
1983	65	61	59	62	55	68	43	64	61
1984	64	60	60	60	55	68	42	66	61
30 June 1985(b)	65	63	64	65	54	69	41	69	63
FEMALES									
31 December									
1980	50	44	47	48	44	51	31	45	47
1981	50	44	46	47	42	52	31	42	47
1982	53	46	48	46	40	52	32	45	48
1983	52	46	43	46	40	55	33	39	47
1984	48	44	43	46	40	53	35	40	45
30 June 1985(b)	51	48	38	47	39	53	33	41	47
PERSONS									
31 December									
1980	58	53	53	58	51	61	59	59	55
1981	59	53	53	56	49	62	38	56	54
1982	60	55	55	56	50	63	38	60	56
1983	60	55	53	56	49	63	39	53	56
1984	57	54	53	55	49	62	39	55	55
30 June 1985(b)	60	57	54	57	48	63	38	57	57

(a) Based on estimates from the labour force survey. See paragraph 8 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the break in continuity of the series.

TABLE 5. TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF STATES AND/OR TERRITORIES OF OPERATION, AUSTRALIA, 31 DECEMBER 1980 TO 31 DECEMBER 1984 AND 30 JUNE 1985

	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five</i>	<i>Six or more</i>	<i>Two or more</i>	<i>Total all unions</i>
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS								
31 December								
1980	183	10	6	13	24	89	142	325
1981	183	9	6	13	24	89	141	324
1982	178	11	3	12	16	102	144	322
1983	176	11	5	11	15	101	143	319
1984	186	12	3	11	17	100	143	329
30 June 1985	183	8	3	12	15	102	140	323
NUMBER OF MEMBERS ('000)								
31 December								
1980	532.1	58.9	25.3	161.1	111.2	2,067.2	2,423.7	2,955.9
1981	540.5	57.0	25.4	165.2	121.0	2,085.1	2,453.6	2,994.1
1982	502.9	21.2	55.7	132.2	135.4	2,165.0	2,509.5	3,012.4
1983	531.9	22.9	56.3	132.1	133.6	2,108.5	2,453.3	2,985.2
1984	540.7	23.9	53.7	138.7	143.2	2,128.4	2,487.9	3,028.5
30 June 1985(a)	541.7	20.9	52.7	142.4	208.7	2,187.7	2,612.5	3,154.2

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes for details of the break in continuity of the series.

TABLE 6. TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF UNIONS ACCORDING TO SIZE, AUSTRALIA, 31 DECEMBER 1980 TO 31 DECEMBER 1984 AND 30 JUNE 1985

Number of members	31 December—					30 June—		
	Number of unions					1985(a)		
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	Number of unions	Per cent of total unions	Cumulative per cent of total unions
Under 100	39	36	46	41	41	35	10.8	10.8
100 and under 250	45	46	38	39	45	42	13.0	23.8
250 and under 500	23	26	25	25	24	30	9.3	33.1
500 and under 1,000	46	48	43	47	52	47	14.6	47.7
1,000 and under 2,000	46	45	45	41	41	41	12.7	60.4
2,000 and under 5,000	43	38	41	41	40	41	12.7	73.1
5,000 and under 10,000	21	22	21	21	22	22	6.8	79.9
10,000 and under 20,000	21	20	21	22	20	21	6.5	86.4
20,000 and under 30,000	11	12	9	13	13	10	3.1	89.5
30,000 and under 40,000	7	9	10	7	6	7	2.2	91.6
40,000 and under 50,000	9	7	9	8	11	10	3.1	94.7
50,000 and under 80,000	7	8	6	5	4	7	2.2	96.9
80,000 and over	7	7	8	9	10	10	3.1	100.0
Total	325	324	322	319	329	323	100.0	100.0

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 7 below.

TABLE 7. TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF MEMBERS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF UNION, AUSTRALIA, 31 DECEMBER 1980 TO 31 DECEMBER 1984 AND 30 JUNE 1985

Number of members	31 December—					30 June—			
	Number of members					1985(a)			
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	Number of members	Average number of members per union	Per cent of total members	Cumulative per cent of total members
—'000—									
Under 100	1.9	1.7	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.7	—	0.1	0.1
100 and under 250	7.1	7.3	6.1	6.0	7.0	6.7	0.1	0.2	0.3
250 and under 500	8.6	9.8	9.1	8.9	8.4	10.7	0.4	0.3	0.6
500 and under 1,000	31.6	33.4	28.8	33.9	37.2	33.9	0.7	1.1	1.7
1,000 and under 2,000	64.1	64.3	61.3	57.7	56.8	56.1	1.4	1.8	3.5
2,000 and under 5,000	145.5	129.0	132.0	132.0	127.3	128.9	3.1	4.1	7.5
5,000 and under 10,000	155.9	156.1	147.3	149.3	156.1	149.4	6.8	4.7	12.3
10,000 and under 20,000	317.6	287.4	305.6	328.1	289.5	301.3	14.3	9.6	21.8
20,000 and under 30,000	256.0	280.2	207.4	315.2	307.3	234.8	23.5	7.4	29.3
30,000 and under 40,000	243.9	316.5	354.6	254.7	207.1	242.1	34.6	7.7	37.0
40,000 and under 50,000	422.5	329.2	402.7	363.2	495.7	452.3	45.2	14.3	51.3
50,000 and under 80,000	466.4	531.6	405.6	320.9	244.5	408.6	58.4	13.0	64.2
80,000 and over	834.8	847.4	949.4	1,013.4	1,089.5	1,127.7	112.8	35.8	100.0
Total	2,955.9	2,994.1	3,012.4	2,985.2	3,028.5	3,154.2	9.8	100.0	100.0

(a) Break in continuity of series, see paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

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